

Open Letter to Church Board

Date: October 1, 2013

To: Church Board: Sara Simons, Chairman
Don Whitley, Secretary
Barb Scantlin, Elder Chair
Katie Spencer, V. Chair
Dorene Drake, Treasurer
Pat Whitley, Deacons
Oaks Christian Church
1216 Bethlehem St
Houston, Texas 77018-1918

From: Charlie Dean, church member

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On **January 8, 2009** in the Oaks Newsletter on page 3, there appeared an article by A Concerned Member. A shortened version appears below:

A Question

The church is in a fight for it's life.

How low does the church attendance have to go before someone steps up to the pulpit and take a stand to fight for the church? Do we, the church congregation just attend Sunday School and the service every Sunday, and wait on the Lord to take care of us? ... I believe we have reached that point where it's our turn. Have we ... become complacent ... The world has changed outside of the walls ..., but inside, we ... have refused to change. We've become like the "isolationists", wanting the outside to adhere to our standards inside. Sorry folks, but that's not going to happen. They are going to pass us by, as they are doing now. Change is inevitable, if we are to survive.

A Concerned Member

In the **May 3, 2010** issue of the Oaks Notes, on page 6 the following article appeared:

AD HOCK COMMITTEE - Don Murray

This committee was appointed by the General Board to look into the situation of the church and give recommendations back to the Board of anything that can help the future growth of the Church.

The committee consists of the following: Don Murray, Larry Scruggs, Bob Simons, Sally Johnson and Barbara Scantlin. Any suggestions you have would be appreciated.

In the **August 1, 2010** issue of the Oaks Notes, on page 3, the following article appeared:

August 15, 2010
There will be a Ad Hoc Congregational Forum
Meeting - Light lunch to follow.

At the time of this writing, historical problems and questions remain unaddressed. The above indicates that problems have been obvious for years. I do not believe we have a clear plan and I am not aware of any action that would lead to better attendance or growth, although I am aware of some improvements and additions to the building and a recent committee to address the music dilemma. Perhaps there is evidence in the minutes of some kind of a plan.

Officers and leaders have resources. They have the authority of their elected positions, Letters of Incorporation, Constitution, Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order, decades of corporate records, various forms of communication including the Internet, their education, their life experiences, money, and reasonable support of church members. If over the years this has not led to a mechanism that addresses the attendance and growth problems, then respectfully I suggest it is indicative a leadership problem.

Even though some of our officers and leaders change from year to year, the mindset is so entrenched that elections do not matter much. We use a nominating committee (OCC Constitution, Article IV: Officers of the Church). As nominations from the floor under such circumstance seldom happen, I respectfully suggest that the process needs improvement. Rotating people in and out while keeping the same entrenched mindset is not beneficial. **We are at the point where we essentially have no Young Adults to help lead the church.**

There should be a minimum competency threshold for nominees for the 2014 Board. I suggest that it include, but not be limited, to the following:

- Be able to create a PDF document.
- Be able to attach a word processing document and a PDF document to an email.
- Be able to download documents from emails and organize them on your computer.
- Be able to write professionally.
- Be able to timely exchange material by email in advance of business meetings.
- Be able to look at an email and determine whether anyone who should have received the correspondence was left out and, if so, see that the person receives the correspondence.

It would be nice if all the old minutes, and correspondences, and other material could find its way to the computer in the church office.

I encourage the Board to make a clear statement in the newsletter about:

- (1) material that is missing from the church computer, and**
- (2) how it will address the minimum competency matter for the 2014 Board.**

Please make this letter and my letter of September 24, 2013 part of the Board's public agenda at the next business meeting.
